

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

14 FEBRUARY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Venezuela

a. The Venezuelan freighter ANTZOATEGUI has been hijacked en route to the US Gulf Coast by Venezuelan Communists. They are playing it as the highlight of their two-day demonstrations marking Betancourt's anniversary in the presidency.

b. The Venezuelan navy and air force are trying to locate the ship, hoping to head it off before it can reach Cuba. The US Navy will probably be asked to help in the search.

c. There were numerous sabotage attempts in Venezuela yesterday, many in provincial areas, but alert security forces turned most of them into failures. A fire set off in the Firestone Tire Company warehouse in Caracas, causing an estimated \$15,000 damage, was the main accomplishment.

d. Terrorist forays are continuing. All state governors have been ordered to maintain a special security vigilance.

2. Laos

a. Kong Le has urgently summoned key neutralist commanders in outlying districts to join him in the Plaine des Jarres following Monday's killing of one of his principal aides, Colonel Ketsana. He lays the blame for the killing squarely on the "Communist reactionary" Pathet Lao.

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3. Syria

a. Premier Azm's frail government is rocking in the wake of the Iraqi revolt

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(Cont'd)

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c. Ambassador Knight describes a meeting he had with the Syrian foreign minister Mahasin on Monday. He was struck by Mahasin's great eagerness to profess his and his government's anti-Communism and desire for friendship with the US. "As a matter of fact," said Mahasin, "should I ever need diplomatic asylum it is to you that I would come."

d. The foreign minister acknowledged that with Azm ill and the cabinet a shambles there is really no Syrian government.

e. The Baath party's founder and head was preparing to leave Beirut yesterday, going first to Damascus and then to Baghdad.

4. Cuba

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d. Readout on the high-altitude reconnaissance missions of 12 February provided no significant new information. Missions flown from 7 through 12 February have covered 52 percent of Cuba's land area.

5. USSR

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(Cont'd)

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c. Since mid-1962, the Soviets have stepped up the number and extent of flights out over the Pacific and the North Atlantic [redacted]

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6. West Germany

a. The Social Democrats have concluded that they have no chance of holding off a Bundestag vote on the Franco-German treaty.

b. The party leadership reckons, contrary to its earlier overly-optimistic expectations, that Adenauer is sure of decisive backing from his own Christian Democrat - Christian Socialist party.

c. The plan now is to work for amendments to the treaty (e.g., pledges of fidelity to NATO and support for EEC membership for Britain) such that it will become unpalatable to De Gaulle.

d. Even if the Social Democrats fall short of their outer objective, as is likely, they may still achieve something by forcing Adenauer to come out into the open on the crucial issues.

NOTES

- A. Ghana--James Meredith Ambassador Mahoney has been told officially of the proposal to invite James Meredith to study in Ghana. Ghana has decided that it would not be "appropriate," since the US Government had spent a great deal of money and time insisting that Meredith enter the University of Mississippi. Mahoney reports that Nkrumah's principal foreign affairs adviser praised to the skies the US Government performance in Mississippi.
- B. Sino-Soviet relations Figures published by the USSR suggest that Sino-Soviet trade dropped by about a third last year from the year before and by two-thirds as compared with the peak reached in 1959.

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- E. Poland-Brazil Poland is keeping alive its barter offer of a helicopter factory and up to 100 Polish helicopters--valued at \$10,500,000--for Brazilian coffee. The Brazilian Air Ministry recently announced that terms of a proposed US deal for helicopters were too stiff.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

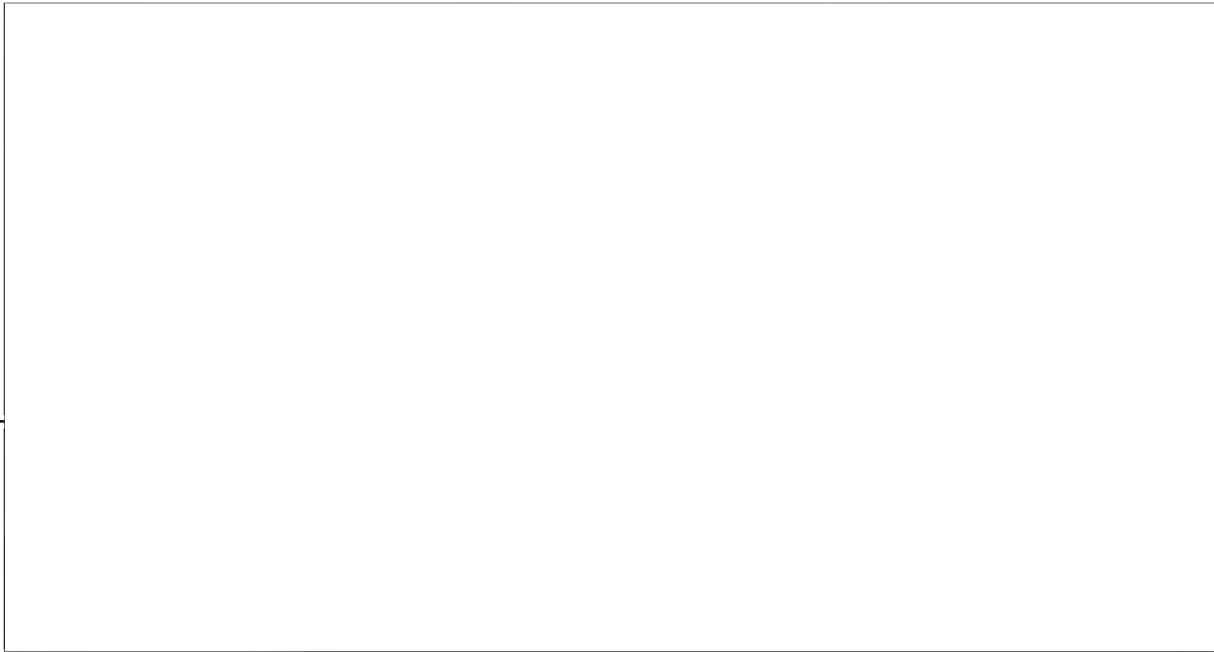
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